



Rutgers University Student Instructional Rating

Spring 2022

Syrett, Kristen - SYRETTK

Language Development - 01:615:440:01

Survey Form: *Standard SIRS

Enrollment: 31

Responses Received: 31

University-wide Instructor Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
The instructor Kristen Syrett was prepared for class and presented the material in an organized manner.	0	0	0	2	29	31	4.94	4.94	4.81	4.68
The instructor Kristen Syrett responded effectively to student comments and questions.	0	0	0	4	27	31	4.87	4.87	4.83	4.64
The instructor Kristen Syrett generated interest in the course material.	0	0	0	2	29	31	4.94	4.94	4.71	4.59
The instructor Kristen Syrett had a positive attitude toward assisting all students in understanding course material.	0	0	0	5	26	31	4.84	4.84	4.82	4.74
The instructor Kristen Syrett assigned grades fairly.	0	0	1	6	24	31	4.74	4.74	4.69	4.68
The instructional methods of Kristen Syrett encouraged student learning.	0	0	0	9	22	31	4.71	4.71	4.68	4.56

Teaching Effectiveness

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the teaching effectiveness of the instructor Kristen Syrett as:	0	0	0	4	27	31	4.87	4.87	4.77	4.60

University-wide Course Questions

Weight of responses: 1=SD (Strongly Disagree), 2=D (Disagree), 3=N (Neutral), 4=A (Agree), 5=SA (Strongly Agree), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I learned a great deal in this course.	0	0	1	8	22	31	4.68	4.68	4.58	4.48
I had a strong prior interest in the subject matter and wanted to take this course.	0	0	2	12	17	31	4.48	4.48	4.31	4.04

	SD	D	N	A	SA	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
Given the content and level of the course, the course workload was manageable.	0	0	3	8	20	31	4.55	4.55	4.54	4.48
The course site used for this course, whether in Canvas, Sakai, or Blackboard, was well organized.	0	0	0	3	28	31	4.90	4.90	4.76	4.68
The instructions given for assignments, exams, quizzes, and other course activities were clear and easy to understand.	0	0	1	7	23	31	4.71	4.71	4.57	4.48

Course Quality

Weight of responses: 1=P (Poor), 2=F (Fair), 3=A (Average), 4=G (Good), 5=E (Excellent), Resp=Number of Student Responses

Weighted Means: Section, Course, Level, Department

	P	F	A	G	E	Resp	Section	Course	Level	Dept
I rate the overall quality of the course as:	0	0	0	3	28	31	4.90	4.90	4.73	4.52

What do you like best about this course?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
The Professor and the material
I like set up of the online videos with the pdf notes to follow with. I also like how the discussion post directly correlates with the weekly videos to allow for us to apply the knowledge we learned right away rather than take quizzes. I also enjoy the friendly environment that has been cultivated in the class through the professor and group work.
I like how the discussion post assignments were so engaging, it made them fun to do and I learned a lot while doing them.
I really enjoyed all of the information we covered—it was super interesting and presented in an easy-to-follow way.
The content is very interesting and Professor Syrett covers it all in a way that makes the course very engaging.
i really enjoyed the hybrid course format, it was really conducive to learning.
Professor Syrett! As well as the hybrid structure.
the effectiveness in connecting everything to the linguistics major to my actual career aspirations
I liked the hybrid format of watching lectures and coming to class to further discuss them and work in groups about the subject matter.
I think the pace of the course was just right, not too slow or too fast. It was slow enough that I was able to retain the information, but not too slow were it became disengaging. I also never felt rushed during the modules, which provided a great mindset to easily learn new concepts.
I like the content and hybrid format of the course. I also like how the in person portion of the class encouraged us to apply what we learned during the online portion.
I really like the course material and all the interesting information we learned about kids especially since I want to work with kids in the future and just love learning about them. Also, I really like the professor as well :)
I really liked how to lectures were online and the in person classes were all discussions and group work.
I love the hybrid combination of this course. I also enjoyed all the in class activities. I love the way professor syrett teaches. She makes everything very clear. I love the fact that we only have one exam and that we have a final presentation. I really enjoyed working on final project.
I loved the group activities we did in class!
the structure of the course
It was very interesting.
Children
The organization of topics, discussions, and layout of the course
I liked how we were in person and also virtual. I enjoyed the prerecorded lecture videos.
Listening to her weekly videos were my favorite part of the class.
The conversational format of the classroom.
I enjoyed the atmosphere as well as the videos and topics we were shown and taught in class.
I love how collaborative this class was and the hybrid type of course.
I really like how the course was structured in a way that it dealt with different linguistic sub-fields.
I loved how interactive this course was and the opportunities we had to apply the material.
I liked the course content.
I really liked the hybrid aspect of the course. It made the lecture portion much easier to digest, but still allowed for interactions with classmates during the Wednesday classes.

If you were teaching this course, what would you do differently?

These comments are intended for all instructors.

Comments
Nothing
I would not change much. Perhaps spend a bit more time in class reviewing some good takeaways from the asynchronous content.
I found the split synchronous-asynchronous nature of the course to be a bit difficult. I might spend more time in class going over the course materials rather than loading most of the informational content into the asynchronous portion.
I would've preferred smaller groups that we could've picked for the final project. It's a large portion of the final grade and coordinating with 5 people all on very different and very busy schedules was tricky. I feel like it added unnecessary stress as opposed to if the groups were smaller
maybe add a few partner activities instead of big groups to make it easier for everyone to contribute
There is a ton of overlapping material so I wish there was a way to bring in more research from different views than just the same we saw in prior classes.
maybe in person lecture and discussion throughout
If possible, make the discussion posts due a little bit later throughout the whole semester (but if this does not allow for enough grading time, then it is ok!)
I would have a clear late policy. Let people see the discussion post but not necessarily be able to start it until they watch the videos. Let us speed up the video to at least 1.25X. Provide a study guide for the final exam, give out the link to the kahoot.
Take a few minutes in the beginning of class to go over the main highlights of the asynchronous lectures, this way it will be reinforcing and make the information salient.
I wish more of the lecture portion was included in the in person portion (while still dedicating part of the class to applying what was learned). While I like having lectures online as we can work at our own pace, I also like being able to be more interactive with the teacher as the bulk of the material is introduced.
Maybe a few more minutes each class to work on the group project
I enjoyed the way this class was taught, however, I might include some more activities focused on examples in the homework especially when the lessons online are longer and have more information.
I would allow a little more in class time for the group project.
I would try to make the discussion post shorter and less wordy. I feel like just seeing how long the discussion post were made me feel exhausted.
Perhaps lecture in class just a bit rather than have all of it online. However, this was a hybrid course
having a little more time to work on the project in class
Possibly allow us to watch the lectures for the week before class so that we can get a head start.
Have people discuss their discussion posts during the class. I might also give more quizzes, cause I am a mean person.
I wouldn't change a thing!!
While I appreciate the convenience of the hybrid format, I would have loved to have this class twice a week, one for lecture, one for activities!
NA
I would maybe change the weekly assignments sometimes. Instead of all discussions maybe I would include some quizzes or worksheets.

In what ways, if any, has this course or the instructor Kristen Syrett encouraged your intellectual growth and progress?

These comments are unique to the instructor Kristen Syrett.

Comments
Dr Syrett encouraged intellectual growth by assigning discussions and in class work that elaborated on the module content and had us utilize the information in ways that would be an asset to our understanding of the material and how it applies to real-world situations. Furthermore, Professor Syrett thoroughly explain various studies in her notes so that we have a good idea of the methodologies and process of research on language development.
I have learned so much in this course and it has all been so interesting to learn. The structure of the course contributed to learning time management skills and teamwork abilities
making us form connections between what we are doing and have done in the past
Professor Syrett generated strong class discussions and interest in the course material with her passion for student learning.
Prof. Syrett always encourages our intellectual growth by opening up conversations in class and allowing us to see how the topics are applied during the in-class activities.
Providing opportunities to work in groups during our in-person sessions was a very helpful in facilitating intellectual growth. Being able to discuss topics with our peers was efficient and effective in ensuring we were all on the same page with the content.
This course builds on a lot of different subfields of linguistics. As a result, a lot of dense concepts need to be condensed and broken down for student's who might not have any experience in certain subfields or in linguistics in general. Despite this obstacle, Professor Syrett does an excellent job at teaching the material and making it digestible and interesting for everyone.
She made the course material relevant, fun, and easier to understand while still encouraging us to think deep and see the bigger picture
Professor Syrett taught in a way that was so engaging with the class and ensured that each student was able to understand the material. She was so helpful whenever I had a question and was always so kind in her responses.
As always, Prof. Syrett has created a welcoming and intellectually stimulating academic environment. Her enthusiasm for Language Development and her knowledge of both the topic broadly as well as experimental background made this such a great class to be in.
Professor Syrett is AWESOME! She is so interested in this class and the coursework, and it shows through her lectures and class activities. She included a lot of collaboration in this class which was really great!
I really enjoyed the topics as well as the videos and examples shown in class (Roman is now a daily part of my life)!
She really encouraged and taught in a way that made us want to do well and learn in her class. I really enjoyed having her as my professor.
Professor syrett has reassure me that SLP is what I want to pursue. I have learned so much about language development.
Professor Syrett made us feel like it was okay to think out loud. She created an environment for us where we felt like we had room to grow and felt heard. I really enjoyed being in her class and will miss her and her teaching style.
Lectures we watched at home were very organized and informative. We then had the opportunity to ask questions about that content and participate in activities relating to that content the next class. This was helpful and definitely encouraged intellectual progress.
I liked the structure of the class, where we had asynchronous lectures and then in class activities. I don't usually like that model but it worked in this class because the lectures were easy to understand and not way longer than a normal class would be.
I guess I gained the ability to work with random groups :P
Prof. Syrett inspired my love for early language development and reignited my passion for the field of Linguistics!!
I loved the different methods of teaching used through out the course; videos, discussion posts, group work, kahoots, etc. The variety kept the class and material engaging.
The structure in which this course has been taught has helped give me perspective on the impacts of linguistics as a whole on the learning of languages. Additionally it has helped me in learning better time management.
This course and instructor Kristen Syrett has encouraged my intellectual growth & progress because the course had a lot of new material that I learned. Instructor Kristen Syrett showed great interest towards the course, the material, and helping students to understand.
The group project is the least favorite thing that I did in this class. Maybe 2-3 people for each group would work better instead of 5-6 people. I don't know about the final, but the weekly assignments were a lot of work. But I did learn a lot of things for sure. It's been very interesting class. I am glad that took this course. Thank you Prof. Syrett!!!

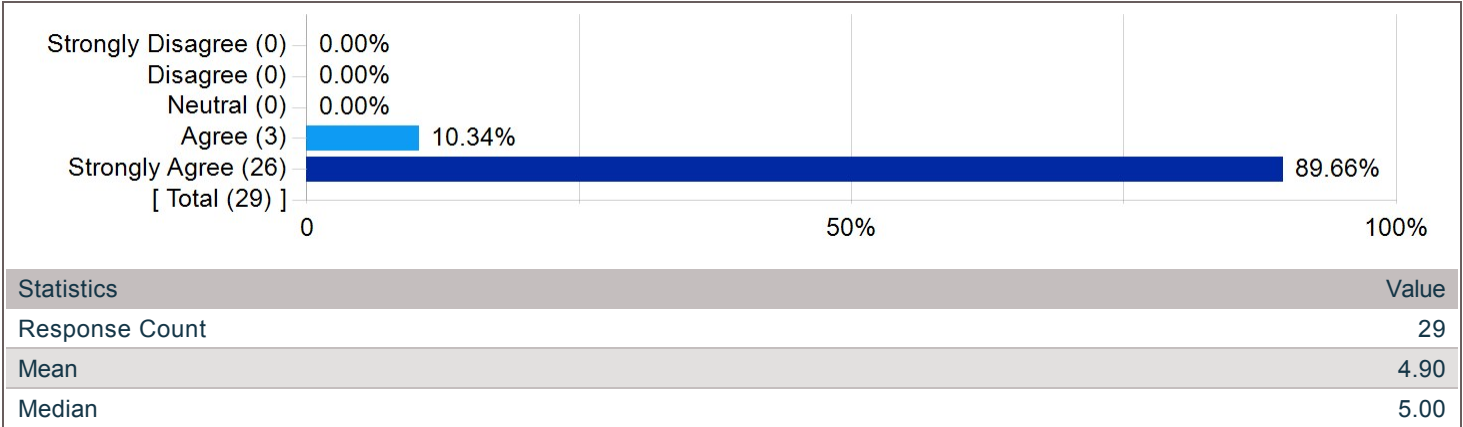
Other comments or suggestions:

These comments are intended for all instructors.

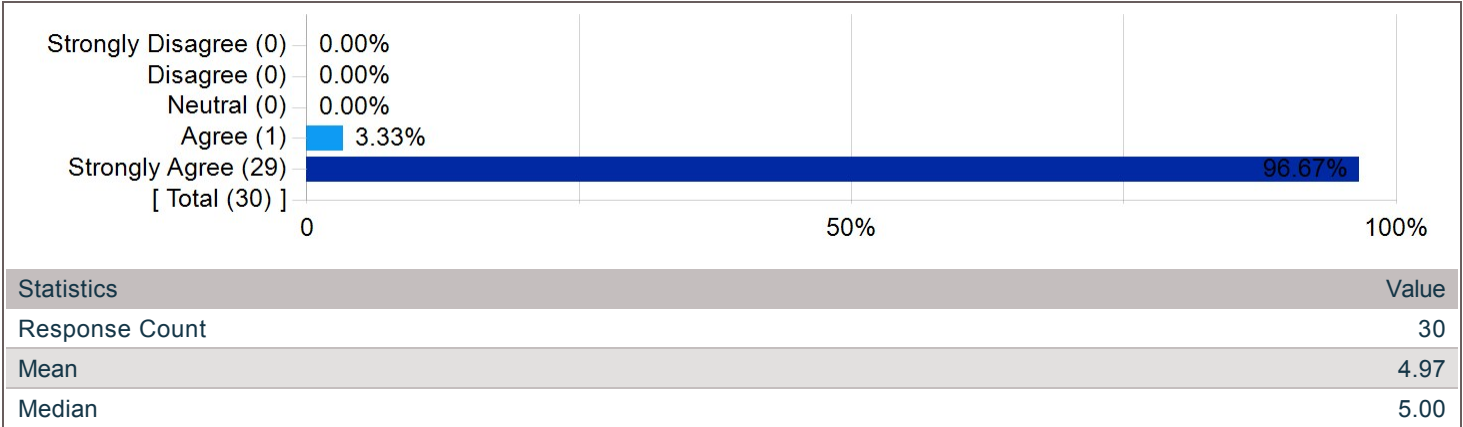
Comments
The class as a whole makes what may be an overwhelming and complex topic for some seem much more manageable, especially because some of us do not have a (full) linguistics background.
I didn't mind the hybrid format but I enjoyed the class so much I would've rather met in person twice a week
This course is great as a hybrid but I wish class time was used more productively instead of busy work.
N/A
Thank you for a great semester.
I loved this course and highly encourage everyone to take it if they have a general interest in language development
I hope you never get rid of the final projects. They are so good for reviewing the class material and they're very fun to do.
This class was amazing. I loved our professor and I enjoyed the material.
I loved this course more than I can express– thank you for the most stunning last semester of undergrad !!
Overall great course!
Thanks again Professor Syrett!

Questions Chosen by Instructor

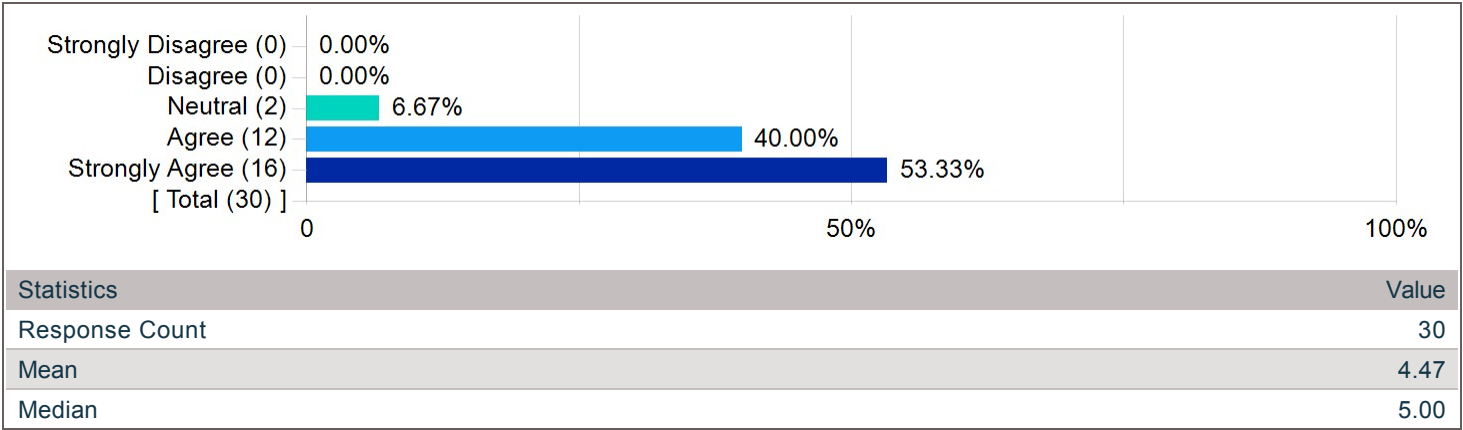
I would recommend this course to other students.



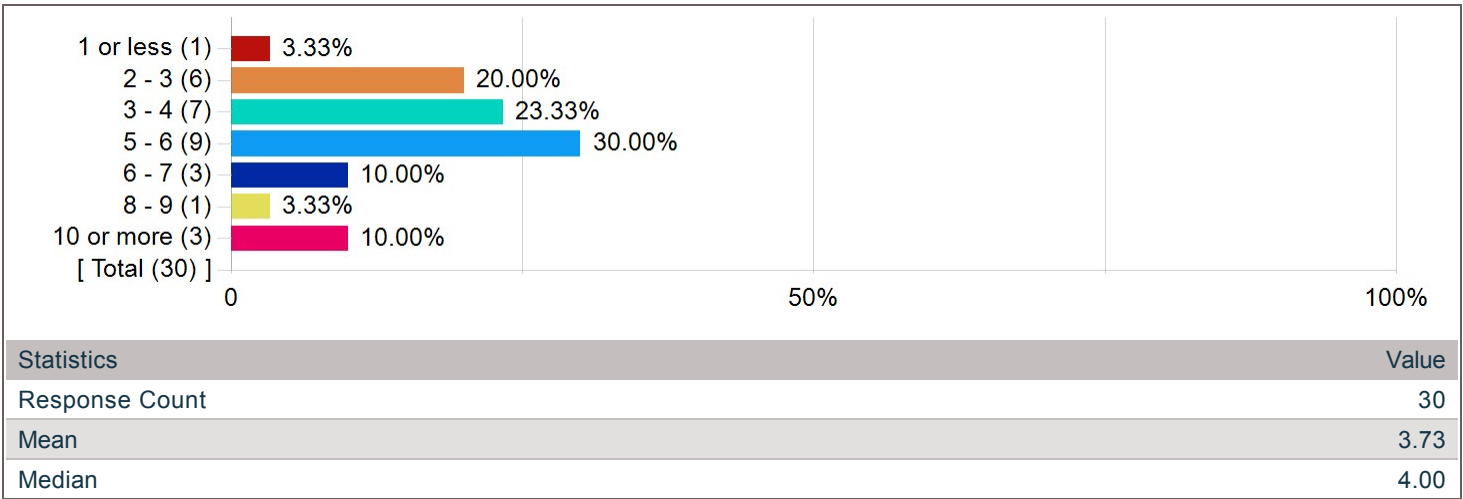
I would recommend this professor Kristen Syrett



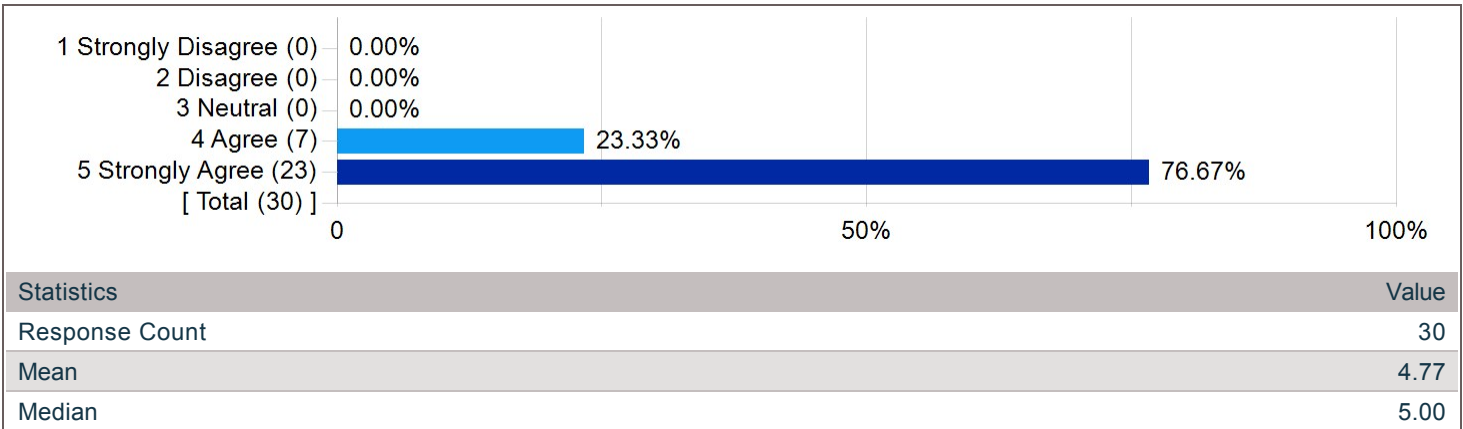
Assignments were interesting



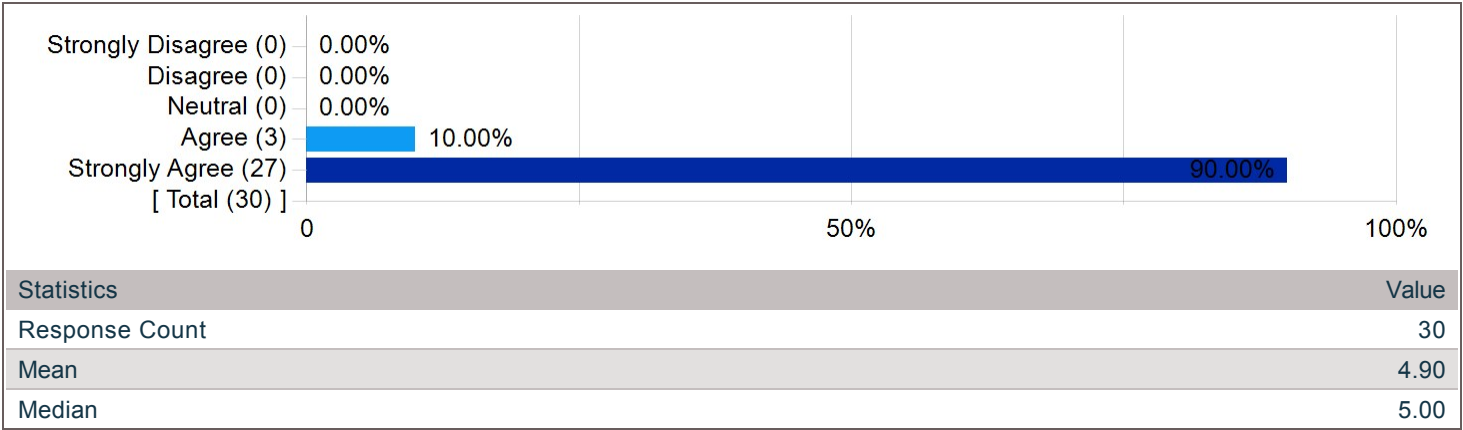
Since the beginning of this course how many hours a week, on average, have you spent on this course in addition to class time?



The instructor Kristen Syrett gave constructive feedback

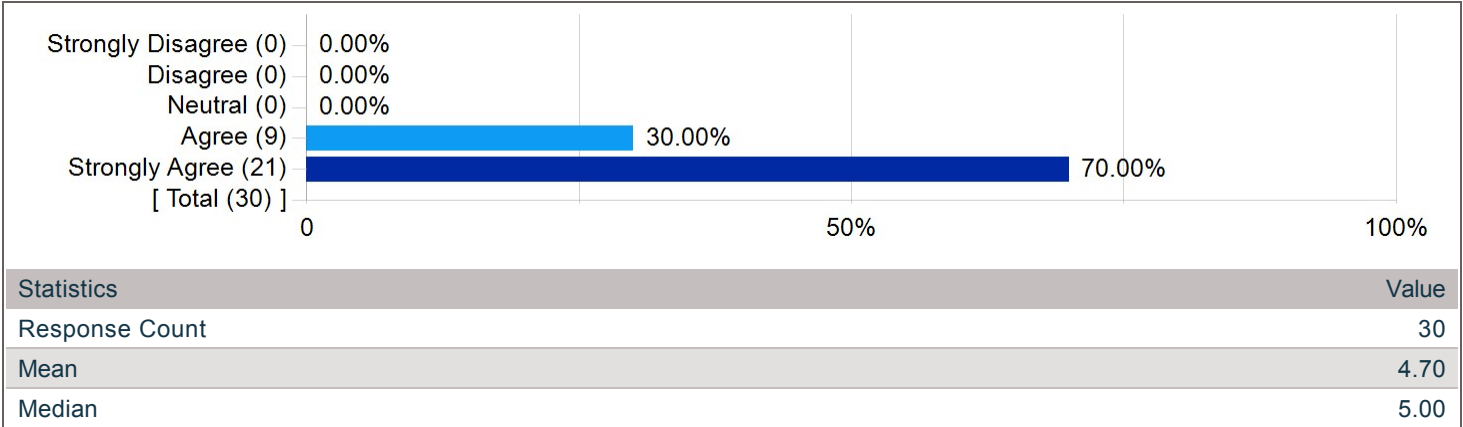


The course met the objectives in the syllabus.

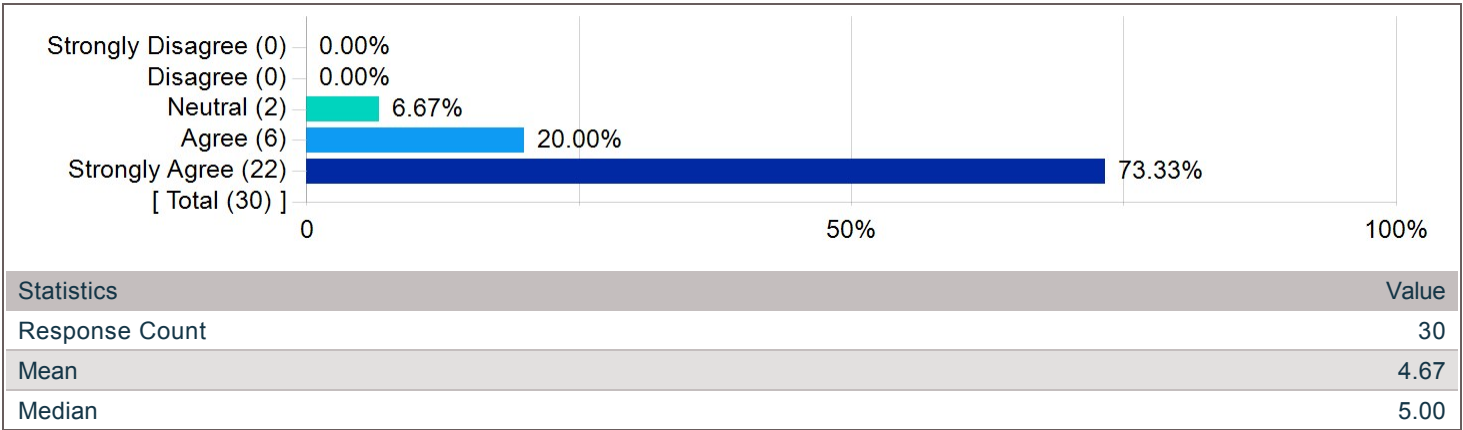


Questions Created by Instructor

The group project encouraged me to think about how to apply course content outside the “classroom.”



The group project provided me with an opportunity to communicate what I learned in class to an outside audience.



What did you like best about working on the group project?

Comments
My group has been great in communicating responsibilities and meeting deadlines. We are all willing to contribute to the project and work together in a fair way.
I loved the weekly milestones. It made the project less overwhelming.
I really enjoyed the freedom to explore a topic of our choice in language development in more detail, and the chance to expand that outside the classroom.
I liked the content and the choice to pick our topics
interesting topics and a lot of creative freedom
The people and knowledge.
meeting more people from my major and applying my new knowledge
I like collaborating about the course subject matter.
I liked that we could take what we have learned in class and apply it in a way that can be helpful to people and caregivers outside of the course.
I liked that we were given a chance to make a draft.
I liked the autonomy of choosing our own platform, this way it felt even more rewarding when the final project came out so nice.
I really enjoyed getting to work together and being creative and collaborative.
I really like how the project was structured in a way that was broken down into chunks and not just having a final due date and nothing else. I like having multiple submissions dates as it made the project more manageable. Getting constant feedback was also helpful.
It was extremely collaborative so we were able to combine all of our ideas into one project. We got to use our creative minds to design something really cool!
I enjoyed my group and the information we get to present
I liked working with people who I didn't know before and being able to put all of our ideas together to create such a cool project that we're all interested in.
Being able to choose my own topic, and being able to choose what type of project to do. Meaning we get to choose if we want to do a flyer, brochure, poster, etc. Also, we didn't have to do any powerpoint presentation with the flyer, poster, etc. It's just one single thing and that's our project.
Getting to be creative (choosing our own topic / formatting)
The way it was divided into 8 5% chunks made it much less intimidating.
We get helpful feedback.
The cohesion and shared insights
I loved the flexibility of the project, this definitely drove creativity and made the project more fun. I also liked how it was broken down into multiple small parts, so one big, complete project that was worth 40% of our grade was due at the end of the semester. It felt a lot more manageable.
Working with different people who had different perspectives and interests in linguistics different from mine.
I enjoyed having the freedom to choose the topic and the structure of the project.

How has the content of this course illustrated for you that while there is significant cross-linguistic variability across the world's languages, there are universal patterns in language, and/or a universal approach to language acquisition and learning?

Comments
The course has touched on this fact many times through talking about the various areas of language acquisition including the subfields of language (syntax, morphology, etc.).
The fact that every topic we covered was applicable to various studies of children across the world — we saw French, Korean, Chinese, Spanish, and even Hindi studies throughout the lectures. It was a nice reminder that human language is universal.
It's really interesting to see the universality of language development across many different languages (including signed languages)
I have seen so many connections between this course and other linguistics courses. Language acquisition is a universal process and it's interesting to think about how this applies to other languages
all children develop language, though different languages, there is still a innate mechanism responsible for helping children acquire language
I think it has illustrated this concept really well, showing that there is some variability, but overall children around the world go through very similar processes for language acquisition.
All children learning a language experience similar milestones in their language development.
Using examples from other languages really highlights the universality of language acquisition. I think being diverse and providing diverse examples is helpful for the students and for understanding this concept.
Children learn languages, many different languages, but regardless the process of acquisition is the same from English to Russian to British Sign Language, these universal patterns still hold and methods that theoreticians use are going to be the same to observe the same patterns
Doing the in-class activity where we found connections with other Linguistic classes really helped me see how 1) Language development is related to these different topics but also 2) how these different topics are related to each other (shout out to the syntax-semantic interface)
This class has shown me that truly everything in language is connected. All linguistic courses have patterns and this is shown throughout all of the linguistics classes. It's really interesting to see how everything connects after taking all of the linguistic core classes.
The content of this course helped me learn that there are so many patterns throughout language development no matter what language it is the child is learning. It's a really cool thing to recognize.
Covering nativism and universal grammar indicate that there are universal patterns in language.
All Children learning different languages go through the same pattern.
This course illustrated the connections between every aspect of language
I always find learning about universal grammar and the LAD super interesting. There is a critical period for each child to learn language, but their environment affects what native language they learn!
The content of this course has illustrated for me that while there is significant cross-linguistic variability across the world's languages, there are universal patterns in language because we learned how children develop language similarly across languages. Beginning with mimicking and utterances, and developing from there.